

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Richard Meyers, City Manager

SUBJECT: Friday Update

DATE: February 26, 2021

If I Were Mayor Workshop

The Cottage Grove Youth Advisory Council is hosting a workshop for youth that are interested in entering the If I Were Mayor contest at 6:30 pm on Monday, March 1, 2021. The YAC members will be discussing ideas for entries and offering suggestions about how to enter the contest. The Mayor will also be attending to provide advice and to answer questions from the youth. Information about the If I Were Mayor contest and how to attend the workshop online is available on the Youth Advisory Council webpage at: www.cottagegroveor.gov/yac.

Travel Oregon's Destination Ready Investment

On Wednesday, Travel Oregon announced that the City of Cottage Grove has been awarded a \$30,000.00 investment through Travel Oregon's Destination Ready program for the Cottage Grove parklet development project. Originally announced as a \$250,000 opportunity, Travel Oregon received more than \$4 million in requests through 135 applications. In response to this high demand, the agency reviewed internal program dollars and reallocated resources to increase the award amount to \$913,000, which allowed 34 projects to be awarded across the state. The \$30,000 award will fund the installation of 3 parklets/streeteries in downtown Cottage Grove. City staff has started efforts to get the parklets installed as quickly as possible.

Cottage Grove Library and Community Center Status

The Cottage Grove Library continues to offer Curbside Service and Book delivery to homebound residents. With the change in the Lane County Risk level, Library staff has been asked whether the library will open. The Library is not opening yet. The challenge with the library is how to disinfect or clean books or library materials without damaging the materials. Using sanitizing wipes, sprays or even UV lights can significantly damage library materials. The only generally accepted method to not damage library materials is quarantine time. Cleaning or disinfecting the Library and any materials handled or used if open poses a significant challenge. Currently all materials returned to the Library are quarantined for 7 days before being processed and re-shelved.

Anyone desiring Library materials can contact the Library and have items prepared for curbside pickup or in the case of home bound individuals the materials can be delivered. Visit the Library webpage at: www.cottagegroveor.gov/library.

The Community Center remains closed. New carpeting is being installed and remodeling work is continuing. All Senior Centers remain under a State order to be closed.



Recognizing Former City Councilor Jake Boone

Mayor Jeff Gowing presented former City Councilor Jake Boone with a plaque of appreciation for his years of service on the Cottage Grove City Council and thanked him for his dedicated service that stands as an example for present and future Councilors.

Community COVID-19 Assistance

The City Council approved a portfolio of assistance proposals to help residents and businesses at the last City Council meeting. The City will be removing \$15,000 from the Emergency Business Loan program with Community Lending Works and placing the funds into the H2O program to assist with local residential water, wastewater and stormwater bills. The remaining funds in the loan program will be converted to a grant program to cover a portion of water, wastewater and stormwater bills for small local businesses that were closed or restricted by State order. The grant program will be operated by Community Lending Works. The residential and business assistance programs should be ready in mid-March. The City is automatically processing credits for the “turn-on” fees for businesses that turned off their City utility service when they were ordered closed. The City is working with the local OLCC office on the 2021 City liquor license renewal fee waiver for on premises sales for those businesses that were closed by State order. That waiver will happen when the business submits their liquor license renewal for 2021.

City Manager Recognized

The City Manager was presented with the Lane Council of Governments 2020 Outstanding Public Employee by Mayor Jeff Gowing and Brenda Wilson in a surprise filming done in preparation for the LCOG Annual Awards program to be held on Friday, March 5th. This year the Annual Awards program will be a virtual event to give thanks to our members and partners and recognize community leaders and celebrate civic, economic, and regional accomplishments.

The City Manager is very honored to have received the award and thanks all of the members of the City Council and staff for the support that has made the successes possible.

Ward I Council Vacancy

The City has received six applications for the Ward I Council vacancy from Billy Reed, Donn Rust, Chalice Savage, Jennifer Crosby, Scott Borgioli and Duane Taddei. The City Council will be interviewing the applicants on Monday, March 8th beginning at 5:30 pm. The appointment will be during the Council meeting beginning at 7:00 pm.

The City Council will be bringing potential interview questions to the March 5, 2021 Agenda Session. Anyone wishing to submit questions should contact the Mayor or a City Councilor. The questions will be compiled and the list will then be used Monday evening by the City Council

when they interview the applicants. Each Councilor will select two questions from the list to ask during the interviews.

Seeing Main Street in a Whole New Light Free Workshop March 29th 6:30 to 8:00 pm

To help us recover from the doldrums of the winter and find the light at the end of the COVID tunnel, the City of Cottage Grove is partnering with Downtown Cottage Grove and the State Historic Preservation Office to offer a FREE WORKSHOP to all interested parties on exterior building & retail lighting. This workshop, titled “Seeing Main Street in a Whole New Light”, will be taught by Seanette Corkill, the owner of Frontdoor Back, a store design & visual merchandising firm. The workshop will be held at the Cottage Grove Armory, socially-distanced in the Drill Hall, on March 29th from 6:30 to 8:00 pm.

Successful downtown districts know that lighting is crucial to creating a sense of safety but great lighting goes further and promotes and delights visitors and citizens, helping them create meaningful connections with their cherished places. Great lighting also helps shoppers open their wallets for retailers and service providers when a place has that certain je ne sais quoi that lighting can provide. Choosing and placing lighting can be confusing and getting it wrong can be costly.

The workshop will cover the 7 layers of light that need to be present for a district to have the 24/7 vitality that today’s consumers are looking for. It will cover the incremental steps that businesses and property owners can take to make improvements and will demystify and clarify the numerous technical terms and qualities of lights that are often confusing. After attending, you’ll be more discerning about what constitutes good vs poor lighting, you’ll be more confident making purchasing decisions and you will have a better understanding of where to begin making investments.

Seanette is a frequent Main Street event speaker and presents on store design, building facades, window displays and visual merchandising to retail groups and business districts across the country. She also provides custom training and design solutions for store owners. After the workshop, Seanette will be providing her services to four+ Downtown Cottage Grove business owners, to give them a customized list of prioritized recommendations for what their property or storefront needs to create meaningful and comprehensive lighting solutions. Interested businesses should contact Amanda Ferguson, City Planner, for more information.

How do you use lighting to create safety while attracting customers? Let’s find out together, and help revive Downtown Cottage Grove.

If you have more questions, or want more information, please contact Amanda Ferguson, City Planner, at (541) 942-3340 or planner@cottagegrove.org.

Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council is Hiring

Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council (CFWWC) is hiring for both Youth Crew Leaders (2) and Youth Crew Members (up to 15) for summer 2021. CFWWC is able to provide this unique opportunity through their partnership with the US Forest Service, US Army Corps of Engineers,

and the City of Cottage Grove and funding through the Oregon Community Foundation and the Weyerhaeuser Giving Fund.

Youth Crew Leader Instructions – Application window now through March 31, 2021 – Must be 21+ to apply

Youth Crew Member Instructions – Application window now through April 15, 2021 – Must be 16-19 to apply

See website for additional information and instructions on how to apply. <https://www.coastfork.org/events/join-our-team/>

Sewer Line Repair

Last week during routine sewer checks the City Utility Crew noticed the sewer manhole at the end of South M Street was backed up and not flowing properly. They moved to the next manhole in the line to try and locate where the obstruction was in the line. In doing so they found a 3' in diameter and 3' deep sinkhole very close to the home at 273 S "M" Street. The location of the sinkhole was the location of the restricted sewer line.

On Wednesday the Utility crew used the large vector truck and an excavator to clean out the sewer line location between the neighboring homes and stabilized the sinkhole location with a large culvert so the sinkhole couldn't undermine the home close to the broken sewer line. Friday Full Circle Tree Services removed 3 trees along the broken line. Late next week Wildish will replace approximately 100' of the failed sewer line between the two sewer manholes.



Weekly Updates # 19 Southmayd Family (by Jason Bush)

We have the new website up and running which is a big relief. Please take a moment to visit www.operationsecondchance.org and share with anyone and everyone you know. Click on the upper right “Initiatives” tab and it will redirect you to the “Southmayd Home Build” site. Across the top will be the various tabs that present our story. There is a photo gallery, a tab that displays all of our supporters, a news and media tab that you can view all the weekly updates and the past interviews and podcasts that have been done for us. Then there is the donation tab that is ready to accept donations!! Also, there is the OSC tab that links you back to their main website, where you can see much more of the wonderful things that Operation Second Chance does for our veterans on a daily basis. Thanks to Cindy, Andrew, Tim, and Len for their expertise in setting this website up for us! It should be noted that OSC has never actually taken on a project of this nature and magnitude. They do lots of wonderful things for our veterans to include helping with finances and providing veterans and family members with vacation retreats in 8 or 9 different states, such as fishing trips in Florida and horseback riding trips in Montana.

My wife and I will certainly be donating some money this weekend in order to see how it works, and remember, this site will automatically generate and issue a tax-deductible receipt for your generous donation! It would be nice to hear back from some of you in order to get some feedback on your impression of the site. Any ideas or thoughts would be greatly appreciated.

I did go by the Parr lumber yard recently to see what has arrived in order to do a little preliminary inventory. I took a few pictures of the materials and sent them off to Andrew who indicated he will upload them to the website. The store Manager, Jeff Melton and his Operations Lead, Matt Kirkpatrick have been very instrumental running around the county picking up donated materials and storing them in their yard for us. It is greatly appreciated, and a big on-going thank you to the Parr team!

We also received a 50# box of nails, some rebar chairs, and the 6mil black polyethylene vapor barrier from Cottage Grove's Cascade Home Center, so a big thanks to Brenda and her team at our local Cascade Home Center!

We're still trying to get some leads on a framing crew, or contractor who can frame this house up for us. I will be reaching out to several in hopes of getting a bid from them. I want to also thank Chris Smith of Dorman Construction, who has contacted me and began putting together some numbers and project information into an Excel spreadsheet program that they use to determine job costs, construction materials lists, and project timelines.

The International Code Council's (ICC) Building Safety Journal story should be coming out soon. I understood that it was to be in the February issue, but have not seen it yet. It will be exciting to read their perspective on our story. Jack Applegate, CEO of Northwest Code Professionals has been diligently working with ICC's Region II Group, which is comprised of seven western states, all of which have a multitude of ICC affiliate Chapters. Jack is sharing our story and trying to encourage them to review their budgets, and hopefully help us out with some donations.

Again, please get me invoices and logo's as soon as possible. The logos of all the fine companies that have helped us out are impressive and growing, and we are certainly proud to display them on our page! I was instructed to inform folks that the invoices should display the total amount or value of the donation, but also zeroed out or stipulated as a donation.

Yours in Building Safety, "and" Guarding Our Veterans,

Quote of the Week:

"Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant."

~Robert Louis Stevenson~